

Appl. No. : 09/168,368  
Filed : October 7, 1998

11. (Amended) A method of modifying the surface of a luer fitment so that the engagement force of the fitment in a moistened state equals or exceeds the engagement force in an unmoistened state, comprising the steps of:

providing a mold adapted to form a textured surface comprising depressions on a luer fitment;

inserting a luer fitment into the mold, wherein said luer fitment is formed of a material deformable by heat and/or pressure;

applying heat and/or pressure to the fitment by the mold, such that the textured surface comprising depressions is imprinted on the luer fitment; and

removing the luer fitment from the mold.

#### REMARKS

Claims 7-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,589,871 to Imbert. Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,430,080 to Pasquini, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,096,229 to Maivar.

Applicants have amended Claim 7 to clarify that the exterior surface of the claimed tip is provided with a non-coated texture. This texture is provided such as by imprinting or otherwise producing cavities or depressions on the surface of the tip. The claims thus clearly distinguish over U.S. Patent No. 5,489,871 to Imbert, in which a tip is roughened by the addition of a particulate to produce a particulate coating on the syringe tip. See, e.g., Imbert at col. 5, ll. 30-38. Accordingly, Claim 7, and claims dependent thereon, are believed patentable over Imbert and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite that heat and/or pressure are now applied "to the fitment by the mold, such that a textured surface comprising depressions is imprinted on the luer fitment[.]" As noted by the Examiner, the Pasquini reference teaches protuberances on a syringe tip. Consequently, Pasquini fails to teach a fitment with a textured surface comprising depressions on its surface. Accordingly, amended Claim 11, and its dependent Claim 12, are believed to be patentable over the Pasquini, et al. patent in view of Maivar, and allowance is respectfully requested.

If any minor obstacles to allowance of these claims may be cured by Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.